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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
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WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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HOUSTON LABOR JOURNAL GIVES LAUDATORY ACCOUNT OF MITCHELL'S SPEECH

Houston, Tex., Nov. 2.—The following editorial comment was recently printed in the Houston Labor Journal: "John Mitchell's Houston address, listened to by laboring men, business men, professional men, and leading divines, must have been a revelation to the individual who expected a wild-eyed appeal to men's hatreds and baser passions by a 'blatant demagogue.' Instead, he was compelled to listen to a most conservative presentation of the aims and objects of the labor union movement by a man who is far more conservative in his views than are numbers of the self-appointed critics of organized labor. Truth can never be radical, and justice is the cornerstone of conservatism. The thing that is really radical and most dangerous to the human welfare along with being radical, is the form of tyranny that flouts truth and rides roughshod over justice and virtue, and sees merit in no movement or institution that does not buttress special privilege. This latter is the radicalism that menaces free government, and the task falls to the lot of conservatives like Mr. Mitchell to combat the radicalism of tyranny, and in thus doing to save free government from its real enemies—the disciples of privilege. And for these reasons must the presence of Mr. Mitchell and his Houston address have been enlightening to many of the men and women who heard him—pleasurably so to some, disappointedly so to others. The Labor Journal is pleased that so many representative of the best element of Houston's citizenship, went to hear Mr. Mitchell expound the true, conservative position of organized labor. Their presence will have enabled them to gain a new viewpoint of the aims and purposes of labor. Those familiar with the record of Mr. Mitchell have had a knowledge of his conservatism that has been denied to those who were unacquainted with his record. His many manly qualities and his conservatism have been known for many years to the leaders of political and social thought in the North. Mr. Mitchell's visit to Texas should have a marked favorable effect on the trade union movement in this State. The new vision gained of the true aims and purposes of organized labor should drive fear of labor from the employer and be the direct cause of a decided, immediate increase in the membership of the labor unions in Texas, and impress the older members with a keener sense of what they owe to the cause in general, and to their several unions in particular."

CHICAGO HOD CARRIERS.

Chicago, Nov. 2.—Several thousand organized hodcarriers and building laborers in this city are now seeking affiliation with the international organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. For many years this body of hodcarriers and building laborers has been independent, but with the growing sentiment among unionists to solidify the movement, the hodcarriers and building laborers of Chicago have taken favorable action upon joining the American Federation of Labor. Negotiations are now in progress with the officials of the Chicago organization and the officials of the International Hodcarriers and Buildings Laborers' Union, with the purpose of making the Chicago unionists a part of the recognized International Hodcarriers. At a conference held in New York October 26, one union of Chicago hodcarriers made application for a charter, and an agreement was reached regarding financial obligations to be imposed. This necessitates, however, the reference of the entire matter to the Chicago District Council of Hodcarriers and Builders' Laborers for approval. It is practically certain that the arrangements entered into will be accepted by the Chicago organizations. With the Chicago organizations within the recognized international union the membership will be increased from 14,000 to 17,000. President Short and Secretary Spencer, of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., have been industriously engaged in an endeavor to secure the affiliation of this large number of men, and their efforts are about to be crowned with success.

JUST THE TRUTH.

Bessemer, Ala., Nov. 2.—It was recently reported in one of the daily papers in Birmingham that the Bessemer Foundry and Machine Company had recently placed its workmen on a nine-hour shift, the company being given credit, in a laudatory manner, for its treatment of the workmen. As a matter of fact this company was approached by a committee in one of the departments for the purpose of requesting the establishment of a nine-hour day, and in answer to the request the committee was asked to hand in its time and the members were discharged. As a result of this act by the company the other employes refused to continue to work. The company shortly found that it was unable to secure non-union men to fill the places of the men whom it had discharged and who had quit, and as a result the company finally concluded to adopt the nine-hour day, which was done. Therefore, the shorter workday was granted not from any philanthropic motive, but because workmen could not be secured to work longer hours.

NO REPORT YET.

Washington, Nov. 2.—After a week of conferences, relative to changes in management, wages, and methods of employing men in the navy yards and stations, the commandants of the navy yards and stations of the United States, Cuba, and the Philippine Islands, have not made public their findings. It is stated that the most of the questions discussed were of a nature that would require only departmental action for their settlement. The result of the conference will be submitted to the Secretary of the Navy. One of the chief questions which arose was whether or not it would be advisable to place all navy yard employees, except naval officers, under civil service rules, which provoked an animated discussion. The result of the action of the department on the recommendations of the commandants will probably be made public in a short time.

DULUTH STREET CAR STRIKE.

Duluth, Minn., Nov. 2.—With practically every citizen and every newspaper against the management of the local street railway company for its arbitrary attitude in the present strike, the contest continues. Efforts have been made by the Mayor and the City Council to induce the street car company to submit the differences existing to arbitration, but the car company seems to be determined to carry on the warfare without any regard whatever to the rights of the people who live in this city. Accidents are of frequent occurrence and the service in its entirety is abominable. The people of the city are becoming thoroughly aroused and are demanding that a settlement be reached and insisting that the city is entitled to at least a decent consideration by the company.

AMALGAMATION DISCUSSED.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Officials of the International Association of Machinists have held conferences with an organization known as the Brotherhood of Machinists, the latter organization being dual to that of the International Association, the major portion of its strength being in New York City. The conference resulted in arrangements being perfected whereby mass meetings were held to discuss the plan of the Brotherhood coming into the International Association. The meetings referred to have been held and a decision was reached to refer to a referendum vote. That vote has not yet been taken, but indications are that a majority of the members of the Brotherhood of Machinists are favorable to abandoning the dual organization and joining the International Association of Machinists.

SHINGLE WEAVERS.

Seattle, Nov. 2.—About seventy-five per cent of the shingle mills in this State have been closed for the past three weeks, due to a controversy between the mill companies and the brokers. The general close-down is retarding progress of the organization of the men in this industry, but a resumption is expected in a short time.

MARINES AS MAIL CLERKS.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Acting Secretary Winthrop has issued a circular announcing that enlisted men of the marine corps are eligible for designation for duty as mail clerks on war ships under the same regulations as enlisted men of the Navy. The action was taken in accordance with provisions of the act of Congress approved August 24, 1912.

ANTI-INJUNCTION MEETING

New York, Nov. 2.—Over 25,000 carpenters and other building trades men constituted a parade in this city on Saturday night, October 26, as a protest against the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes and especially against the recent restraining orders granted against the local unions of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of this city. It was one of the largest demonstrations ever held by the Building Trades, and was an emphatic exhibition of the feeling against the abuse in which the courts have indulged in issuing injunctions. The main purpose of the parade and mass meeting was to make vigorous protest against the American Anti-Boycott Association for its activity in persecuting the organizations in this city. Practically all of the locals of the Brotherhood of Carpenters in New York, Brooklyn and Queens were represented in the parade and a number of Jersey Building Tradesmen were also included. General Organizer Hugh Frayne opened the meeting, which was held in Cooper Union, and presented Eldrige H. Neal, secretary of the Carpenters District Council as the permanent chairman of the evening. President Gompers was the principal speaker, and severely criticised the judiciary and the methods which they employ in issuing restraining orders in labor disputes. He asserted that the carpenters were fighting for better conditions for the men, women and children employed in the door and sash factories, and further stated that the issuance of restraining orders against the carpenters in New York City was a denial of the rights guaranteed by the constitution, and urged those present to contest the attempt of the courts to nullify the constitution of the United States. James O'Connell, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, also delivered an address. The meeting taxed the capacity of Cooper Union. The carpenters have fought a valiant fight against unfair employers, with the added task of having been compelled to combat orders issued by the courts which were for the purpose of vitiating the efforts of the carpenters to establish just and equitable conditions.

BAN AGAINST UNION MEN.

Erie, Pa., Nov. 2.—The General Electric Company of this city is making a fight against the pattern makers. Those in authority in the pattern shop some time ago informed the employes that the company was opposed to the formation of a union. Notwithstanding this fact the pattern makers joined the organization of their craft for the purpose of securing the same rate of wages as paid at the Schenectady plant of the same company. Upon the company learning that an organization had been formed four men were discharged, but were not informed as to the reasons therefor. The pattern makers are determined to exercise their rights and continue the organization. The General Electric Company needs experienced pattern makers, but apparently it has decided to conduct a policy of extermination, rather than meet the just demands of the pattern makers.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Since President Taft placed, by executive order, the fourth class postmasters under the civil service, arrangements are being perfected to carry the plan into effect. The offices have been divided into two classes: Class A and Class B. Class A comprises the postmasters whose compensation is $500 a year or more. Class B includes offices of which the compensation is less than that figure. Appointments to all Class A offices will be made from names certified by the civil service commission after competitive examinations of the applicants. Vacancies in all Class B offices will be filled on the recommendation of postoffice inspectors after personal investigation. Hereafter all vacancies in the postmasterships for fourth-class offices will be filled without regard to the political affiliations of the applicants.

BONUS FOR GIRLS.

New York, Nov. 2.—Recently, it is stated, the telephone company distributed among the telephone operators $35,000. This is "handed" to the operators for what is termed "recognition of the faithfulness of the recipients," and undoubtedly is a method used to prevent organization among them. According to the plan inaugurated by this company, it is asserted that every girl who performs her duties "faithfully" enough to remain in the service two years will receive $25, but those who remain from two to nine years will receive $50, and those whose length of service extends beyond nine years will get $100 per year.

TO SAFEGUARD LIFE.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Regulations looking to the better safeguarding of the navy submarines and the men who operate them have been issued by the Navy Department. Hereafter no submarine will operate singly without notifying officers of the flotilla of the exact movements intended. Submarines having on board an inexperienced crew will exercise only in shoal water and will be restricted as to the depths of dives. The older submarines will be limited to a depth of sixty feet, and the newer models to a depth of 100 feet.

BOYS GO ON STRIKE.

Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 2.—Recently a number of boys employed in a local umbrella factory went on strike for an increase in wages. It seems that the boys have been dissatisfied with the low wages paid and also further dissatisfied for the reason that a portion of the employes in another department have recently received an increase in pay. Another factor which is responsible for the discontent is that a system of "speeding up" has been introduced. After the strike the boys were organized and are pursuing the contest with vigor.

SECURE ADVANCE IN WAGES.

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 2.—One thousand miners who have been on strike since last spring, have returned to work in three mines at Dorothy, W. Va. The men are to receive 22 per cent above the price paid under the scale of the United Mine Workers of America.

MACHINISTS WIN.

Cleveland, O., Nov. 2.—A shop strike took place in this city recently involving eighty machinists. After being out a short time a settlement was reached, the disturbing factor, the overtime system, having been eliminated by establishing a nine-hour day and adding a night shift.

NEW WEEKLY LABOR PAPER.

Toronto, Nov. 2.—The Industrial Banner, the local labor paper of this city, having been conducted for many years as a monthly, has decided to issue a weekly publication and the first number has been published. It is an eight page, seven column paper and says editorially that "It will advocate a closer alliance of the different labor organizations within clearly defined industries in harmony with the policy of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the American Federation of Labor, and will not support any policy that forces the organization of the workers upon the industrial field in advance of those evolutionary forces in industry which must determine the character of labor organizations." Another paragraph also says: "We shall aim to eliminate such features as abuse of individuals within the movement, and deal as much as possible with the principles involved in the development of the labor movement." This policy adhered to will make for more strength in the organizations of labor and not divert the time and energy of trade unionists from exercising their best thought and employing their best efforts in upbuilding the organizations of labor, which have been of so much benefit to the working people.

ANOTHER FORWARD MOVEMENT.

Syracuse, N. Y., Nov. 2.—Arrangements for a forward movement among the trade unionists of this city are being completed. A committee to have charge of the movement has been appointed and has commenced active preparation. Each International Union will be requested to send one of its representatives to Syracuse during the revival. Special efforts are to be made to secure a large attendance of the unorganized. With the present preliminary program extended and carried out no doubt beneficial results will accrue from this movement.

ARBITRATION DRAGGING.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 2.—Fred A. Burgess, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and C. A. Wickersham, president of the Atlanta and West Point Railroad, arbitrators in the Georgia Railway strike, have failed to reach an agreement on the choice of the third member of the arbitration board. Judge Knapp, of the Commerce Court, and Charles P. Neill, Commissioner of Labor, have been requested to name the third man. The disagreement between Mr. Burgess and Mr. Wickersham came after the time allowed in the Erdman act had been extended, and the agreement to end the strike was reached about two weeks ago. It is believed the third arbitrator will be selected shortly.

BRITISH FRATERNAL DELEGATES

New York, Nov. 2.—The fraternal delegates from the British Trade Union Congress to the Rochester convention of the American Federation of Labor arrived in New York on Sunday, October 27, aboard the Cunarder Carmania. The fraternal delegates are J. A. Seddon, a member of the shop assistants (retail clerks), and Robert Smillie, coal miner. The delegates were met by Hugh Frayne, general organizer, American Federation of Labor, and a committee from the Central Federated Union of New York. The visitors attended a regular meeting of the New York central body on Friday, November 1, and then proceeded to Washington, where they will remain for a few days.

STATE INSURANCE.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 2.—The state of Wisconsin, in accordance with the provisions of a bill passed by the last legislature, has entered into the life insurance business. The plan provides that any citizen of Wisconsin, between the ages of 22 and 50, living a normal, healthy life, may take out a policy after satisfactorily passing the medical examination under the supervision of the state board of health. Wisconsin is the first State in the Union to engage in the life insurance business.

MINERS GET BACK PAY.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 2.—The Secretary of State, who is the State Labor Commissioner, and his deputy have been investigating a complaint that $8,000 wages is due to sixty-five miners employed at a mine near Lake City, this State. The investigation reveals that the complaint was well founded and arrangements have been made whereby a sufficient amount of ore will be immediately shipped from the mine to the smelter and $8,000 reserved to pay the wages due the miners.

SHOP MEN WIN STRIKE.

Albany, Nov. 2.—The strike of the employes in the Delaware & Hudson shops at Corona, which has been in progress for a few days, has been settled, and the men have returned to work. About 500 were involved, the controversy arising over the employment of a number of non-union men. It was agreed that any further grievance would be submitted to the superintendent of the road for investigation.

'PHONE COMPANY INCREASE.

Davenport, Iowa, Nov. 2.—An increase in the wage scale of the Electrical Workers of the telephone companies throughout the State of Iowa has been secured. The new scale, which is a substantial increase over the old one, goes into effect immediately, and the employes have been assured of another increase in the near future.

INFLUX OF FOREIGNERS.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 2.—The Pittsburg Gazette of recent date carried this article in its news columns, which is self-explanatory: "Pittsburg is once more, as in the days of yore, the Mecca of immigrants. According to local railroad men, the city is at present experiencing the greatest influx of foreigners that it has known for years, while the demand for laborers not only in Pittsburg but throughout Western Pennsylvania still remains unsatisfied. So pressing is the need for workers that several local firms have agents stationed at the docks in New York to employ immigrants as soon as they arrive and to send them in special cars to this city. Both the Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania Railroads have found it necessary to enlarge the trains on which the immigrants regularly travel. The latter railroad recently ran a special immigrant train. For the first time in years the Pennsylvania is advertising for men to work in its repair shops at Hollidaysburg, Bellwood, and Creason, Pa. Contractors are offering $2 a day for good laborers and are giving a bonus to get them to finish up outside work before winter sets in. In these shops the price of labor has increased 25 per cent in the past summer."

FORT WAYNE PIANO WORKERS.

Fort Wayne, Nov. 2.—Some weeks ago the Packard and Bond Piano Companies, of this city, commenced the installation of the so-called "Taylor system." Dissatisfaction became general, and as a result the employes of this factory organized a local union under the Piano and Organ Workers' International Union. Immediately the president and secretary of the local union were discharged, and some two weeks later practically all union men were laid off. It is stated that the company began advertising in out-of-town papers for men to take the places of those who had been laid off, and in some instances stated in their advertisements that there was no labor trouble. The management of the companies in numerous instances endeavored to induce the members of the union to leave it, and professional strike-breakers were employed and men were hired to join the union for the purpose of keeping the management posted. Even the wives of some of the workmen who had been employed for years as charwomen in the factory were discharged because their husbands joined the union. These instances show the intense feeling which exists in the management toward employes who exercise their right in joining an organization of their craft. The members of the union, however, are making a gallant fight, as also are the members of this international union in New York City, where a similar contest is being waged to establish an organization. While the contest in Fort Wayne is a severe one, the members of the organization are confident and firm in their convictions that eventually they will win the contest.

STRIKE SETTLED.

Hamilton, Ont., Nov. 2.—The Herald, a local labor paper, in a recent issue, says: "International bookbinders of Montreal have succeeded in settling their differences and the strike declared off. There are yet some of the members not back in harness, but endeavors are being made by both parties to reach a satisfactory basis. The strike was in charge of W. Glockling, ex-president of the Trades Congress, who has now returned to Toronto."

SAN JOSE LABOR TEMPLE.

San Jose, Cal., Nov. 2.—Preparations for the dedicatory exercises of the labor temple on November 8 and 9 are nearly completed. The dedicatory exercises are to be held on the evening of Friday, November 8, with a grand ball and banquet on Saturday evening, the 9th. Invitations have been extended to prominent labor officials in the State, and it is expected that a large attendance of out-of-town unionists will be present.

ALL TO JOIN DEPARTMENT.

Newark, N. J., Nov. 2.—At the October meeting of the New Jersey Building Trades Council, held at Somerville, N. J., it was decided that the New Jersey Building Trades Council affiliate with the Building Trades Department, American Federation of Labor. Action was also taken to notify local councils in all cities of the State to affiliate themselves with the department.

CARRIAGE WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Winnipeg, Ont., Nov. 2.—A local union of carriage workers was recently formed in this city and has been installed. The union starts out with a charter list of practically 115 members, having secured two-thirds of the entire number of men working at the trade in this city.

IN THE MAW OF MAMMON.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Some idea can be acquired of the income upon investments controlled by the various trusts and combinations by digesting the following summary, gleaned from the financial columns of numerous publications: The Republic Iron and Steel Company, it is stated, is now earning, at the rate of $9 a share on its preferred stock, and is booked for months ahead, and some of the largest stockholders favor the resumption of the 7 per cent. dividend rate on the preferred stock. November dividend and interest payments amount to $114,036,000, as compared with $100,192,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Particularly interesting is the fact that the increased dividends and interest of industrial corporations contribute $8,302,000 to the total gain, whereas the railroads contribute $5,270,000 to the gain over last year. Reports of railroad earnings for September are coming in. The Atchison for the month earned considerable over $10,000,000, crossing that mark for the first time, with October being an equally good month. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad reports a gross increase for September of $707,154, or a little better than 10 per cent. The net gain was $224,581, also 10 per cent over last year.

INCREASE IN STEEL WORKS.

Ironton, Ohio, Nov. 2.—The campaign of education directed particularly to the employes of the steel and iron corporations throughout the country is bearing fruit. The operators of seven blast furnaces in this county have tendered their employes an increase of 15 cents per day in wages, covering all classes of labor. The men had made a request for a 25 cent increase, similar to the advance made by two furnaces at Ashland, Ky. There is no strike on, yet the employes have not agreed to accept the raise offered by the company, and there is much restlessness. About 1,500 men are affected at this point and vicinity.

CHANGES IN WAGES.

London, Nov. 2.—The changes in rates of wages taking effect in September, according to the Board of Trade and Labor Gazette, were all increases and amounted to $77,000 a week in the wages of 260,000 working people. The most important advances affected 20,000 carpenters and joiners in London, 3,650 deputies, mechanics, etc., at coal mines in Northumberland, 5,500 coal miners in the Forest of Dean and 190,000 in South Wales and Monmouth, 3,000 iron puddlers and mill men in the West of Scotland, 14,000 engineers in Leeds and district, 5,000 laborers in the engineering works at Sheffield, and 8,600 ring spinners in Lancashire.

NEGOTIATES NEW SCALE.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 2.—A representative of the Carriage, Wagon and Automobile Workers' organization has been successful in executing a new agreement with a local factory here, whereby the carriage blacksmiths, trimmers, wood carvers and painters will receive hereafter $3.50 per day, stripers and finishers $3.00 per day, brush hands $2.25 and experienced helpers $2.50. The agreement is a continuing one, and if any change is contemplated by either side thirty days notice must be given. This new agreement is a substantial increase over the wages received heretofore.

ORGANIZING CHICAGO BUTCHERS.

Chicago, Nov. 2.—Efforts have been made during the last few weeks to secure an organization among the packing house employes. These efforts have been successful to a considerable degree and meetings are being held regularly, and at each meeting many new applications are received. Indications are to the effect that before the winter is over Chicago will have organizations in the packing industry that will be sufficiently strong to secure a betterment of conditions.

OPENING OF CANAL.

Washington, Nov. 2.—The Panama Canal Commission announces that the canal will be ready for the first ship to pass through on October 22, 1913. It is stated that with the closing up of the work on the big water-way there will be a large exodus of workmen from the canal zone. However, the government will keep a large force of skilled mechanics in the zone in order to keep the locks in good repair and also keep the buildings in proper condition.

BACK IN HARNESS.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 2.—During the Atlanta convention of the American Federation Earle E. Griggs contributed well-written articles relative to the convention and the organized labor movement in the daily press. Mr. Griggs is recognized as an able exponent of trade union philosophy, and his services have recently been secured as associate editor of the Atlanta Journal of Labor, one of the foremost labor publications of the country.

STRIKE SETTLED.

Teague, Tex., Nov. 2.—After a conference between the president of the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railroad and the officials representing the various unions affected by the strikers here, it was announced that all the men would return to work. The trouble arose over an objectionable foreman, and a settlement satisfactory to all concerned was reached in all matters in controversy.

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS

Washington, Nov. 2.—News of recent railroad wrecks gathered from various sources continue to be the order of the day. A Baltimore and Ohio freight engine near Hagerstown, Md., plunged over a twenty-five foot embankment and killed a flagman, while the engineer and trainmen suffered severe injuries. The engine ran into an open switch at the speed of twenty-five miles an hour. Gov. Osborn of Michigan was one of the thirteen passengers injured in a train and street car wreck in Chicago recently, and four of the injured are thought to be fatally hurt. The wreck occurred when a Big Four train crashed into the rear end of a Michigan Central train, while a second wreck occurred when a Pennsylvania train struck a street car. A negro porter was killed, and Thomas H. Hubbard, chairman of the board of directors of the Toledo, St. Louis and Western Railroad; and three of the train crew were injured when a special train, containing directors of that road, was wrecked at Fillmore, Ind., recently. Forty-nine passengers were injured when an excursion train on the Illinois Central was wrecked recently. A broken rail, resulting in derailing four coaches, was the cause of the accident. The Pennsylvania Railroad's Buffalo flyer crashed into a box car at Newbury, Pa., the engineer being instantly killed. A Norfolk and Western passenger train was derailed at Cooper, W. Va., by an obstruction on the track and the engineer killed. The postal clerks of the train were injured, though not seriously. The Chicago express on the Grand Trunk Railway collided with a special train bearing a regiment of infantry, resulting in killing twelve and injuring some thirty others, the accident occurring near Streetsville, Canada. Three trainmen were killed outright and two others fatally injured when a logging train of the Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company went over an embankment near Grandbury Mountain, twelve miles from Richwood, W. Va.

FOR INJURED WORKMEN.

Washington, Nov. 2.—More than $1,100,000 in death and injury benefits to men or the families of men employed by the United States in hazardous work has been paid out of the treasury since August 1, 1908, the date when the government workmen's compensation act went into effect. This information is included in a report submitted to Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, by Solicitor Charles Earl, of the department. Of this sum, $704,514.60 went to the injured themselves, and upward of $100,000 was paid to the surviving dependents of men killed. Whenever a government workman is injured through no fault of his own, the law provides that he shall receive his pay for a year unless he is able to work at an earlier date. In case of a fatal accident the compensation goes to the man's dependents. The Secretary of Commerce and Labor adjudicates all compensation cases. This law was the direct result of the efforts of the American Federation of Labor, it having devoted much time to securing a favorable report and also in urging its passage by Congress and approval by the President.

RAILWAY CAR MEN.

Kansas City, Nov. 2.—Secretary E. W. Weeks, of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, reports that a new lodge has been organized at North Bay, Ontario, Canada, and one also at Coffeyville, Kansas. Another new organization has been installed at St. Louis, Mo., and East St. Louis, Ill. The organization work of the carmen has been proceeding methodically during the entire year and the membership has been materially increased. Since the convention held by the Brotherhood in Atlanta, Ga., in 1909, there have been organized by the officers of the Brotherhood and organizers of the craft and the American Federation of Labor 283 new local unions, which is a magnificent record, and indicates that the organization is wide awake to the needs of the unorganized.

PIANO WORKERS STRIKE.

Boston, Nov. 2.—The Piano Workers in this city and vicinity went on strike recently for an eight-hour day without reduction in pay and the abolition of piece work. Agents from the New York Piano Manufacturers, whose employes are now on strike, are endeavoring to induce the strikers in this city to go to New York to help break the strike in that city, offering a three years' contract at $18 per week. The offer of the manufacturers has not met with favor among the strikers, the manufacturers being unable to procure any assistance in this city.

SEEKING POST-OFFICE POSITIONS

Washington, Nov. 2.—Twenty thousand applicants for positions as clerks in first-class post-offices will take their examinations before the Civil Service Commission on November 2. Six thousand are seeking places in the New York City post-office alone. Examinations for other positions will be held as follows: Mineral technologist, November 8; mine sanitary engineer, November 9; instructor in mine safety, November 11; statistical clerk, general department service, November 6; law clerk and stenographer, November 6 and 7; aid in division of graphic art, National Museum, November 6.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY MEN.

St. Louis, Nov. 2.—President A. B. Lowe, of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, reports a sort of summary for the year, in which he says that he is pleased with the cordial relations with which wage controversies have been carried on and the extent to which arbitration has been used in the settlement of differences. The contract and agreement recently entered into as a result of arbitration on the Southern Railway has been signed and the employes will now partake of the very substantial increase secured from this road.

TRY TO AVERT STRIKE.

Yonkers, N. Y., Nov. 2.—The trolley men of Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and New Rochelle are endeavoring to avert a strike by referring the matter in controversy to a board of arbitration. It seems that the manager of the roads in question has refused to arbitrate the question at issue. The State arbitration board has interested itself in the situation and is endeavoring to bring about an arbitration of the difficulty, and thus avert a serious contest.

NEGOTIATING NEW SCALE.

Cleveland, Nov. 2.—An increase of 40 cents a day, raising the minimum wage scale from $4.60 to $5, is being negotiated by the local union of inside electrical workers with the contractors. There is no apprehension that difficulty will be encountered in establishing the new scale, many of the contractors being favorable to the advance.

DENOUNCE CANDIDATE.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 2.—Judge Rucker, Congressman from the Denver district, was defeated in the primaries for nomination. George J. Kindel, a labor hater of the most pronounced type, was successful against Mr. Rucker. The record of Mr. Rucker in Congress on matters affecting labor was of the very highest, he having given his support to all measures advocated by the American Federation of Labor. The trade unionists of Denver are now bending their energies to defeat Kindel, the central body of that city recently having passed a resolution of condemnation against Kindel. Some years ago Kindel was an ardent advocate of organized labor, but took a somersault and smashed the local union in his bedding factory and has since been a virulent and violent enemy to everything which organized labor stands for. He is one of those erratic individuals who seems to have lost the consciousness that labor has any rights at all, even going to the length as a member of the city council of opposing a minimum wage of $2.50 a day for city laborers, and upon every occasion lets it be understood that he is in the fight for the purpose of destroying the effectiveness of organized labor. The Denver unionists will do a good service if they permit Mr. Kindel to remain in Denver and conduct his bedding factory, rather than come to Washington to antagonize the best interests of humanity.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

Washington, Nov. 2.—The reports of the President and Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, together with the executive council's report, which are to be submitted to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which convenes in Rochester, N. Y., November 11, have been completed and are in the hands of the printer. A general resume of the accomplishments of the year show the American Federation of Labor still forging ahead. While there have been many wage contests and other obstacles, yet this report shows that material progress has been made. The history of the past year is interesting, and shows that the general labor movement of this country is not only virile, but is aggressive in reaching out to secure betterments for those already organized, as well as entering the fields where large bodies of men yet remain unorganized. These reports, subsequent to the opening of the convention, will be given wide publicity.

A FAIR EDITORIAL.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Under the caption, "Folly of Using Cheap Labor," the Washington Herald recently printed the following Editorial: "Fiber and Fabric says the Lawrence mills know all about the economy of skillful labor, but they cannot get it. They have filled up with new immigrants, many of whom cannot speak or understand English, because native labor has withdrawn from the mills. The same organ of the textile trade also tells of the native labor that retires from the mills as fast as this crude labor is admitted. The exit of one class was going on while the other class was coming in, and there is a substantial reason for believing that the mill owners are chiefly responsible for the substitution of the inferior labor. They have been trying to get the cheapest labor they could get for lower wages. But they are beginning to find out that the cheap labor is not economical, and they have had destructive strikes to boot."

FLORIDA DOINGS.

Jacksonville, Nov. 2.—Organizer Wm. E. Terry has just succeeded in organizing a local union of street car men with a charter list of 131, with a prospect of securing practically all the men employed upon the system. As usual, the management of the street car company commenced the tactics employed by traction corporations—to foment trouble to destroy the organization. In consequence, the employes are on strike to preserve their organization and to establish their right to exercise the prerogatives of American citizens, with the chances of success exceedingly favorable. Terry has also organized a local union of colored linemen and installed a union of laborers at St. Augustine. The city of Jacksonville at the present time is well organized, every trade in the city having secured practically all the members in the craft, and this fact has had a salutary effect upon wages, hours and conditions of labor.

MONTANA COAL MINERS.

Great Falls, Mont., Nov. 2.—A joint scale committee, composed of representatives of the coal miners and of the mine operators of Montana recently reached an agreement. The result of the conference was submitted to a vote of the miners. By an overwhelming majority the members of the union voted to accept the scale agreed to by their representatives. It is stated that the provisions of this agreement mean a general improvement in the conditions of the contract miners. The day wage scale was advanced to the several classes of labor, principally raising the lower rates for both inside and outside work, the range of these increases being from 15 cents to 25 cents per day.

ISSUES FIRST BULLETIN.

Washington, Nov. 2.—The first bulletin from the Children's Bureau has been issued. It contains, besides a copy of the creative act of April 9, 1912, a brief history of the movement for the bureau. The American Federation of Labor was largely responsible for the passage of this bill through Congress. Miss Julia C. Lathrop, who is chief of the bureau, says: "The first work of the new bureau will be to bring together the existing materials on the subjects within its scope, so that it may make a thorough survey of the field and avoid duplicating work which has already been done either by public or private agencies."

ARBITERS RESUME SESSION.

New York, Nov. 2.—The arbitration committee which has been considering the demands for increased wages made by the engineers on five railroads of the East met recently in New York after an adjournment of a month. The committee is now in session, and no doubt will conclude its work in the immediate future.